

**THE REV. FRANCIS WADE, S.J.  
PUBLIC LECTURE**

# Sharing Our Dying and Deaths: Edith Stein's Theology of Community

**Wednesday, April 10 | 4:30 p.m.  
Beaumier Suites BC | Raynor Library**

*Reception immediately following*

After scoffing at Crito's advice to pay a bribe and thereby escape death, Socrates asserts, "True philosophers make dying their profession." Preparation for death, for Socrates, involves perfecting the soul in its true knowledge of the eternal. Edith Stein, philosopher, feminist, and Carmelite had a chance to escape death during the Nazi regime. In 1933 Stein was removed from her teaching position in Münster by the Nazis because of her Jewish background. Afterwards, she declined an invitation to teach in South America and instead joined the Cologne Carmelites. When the Nazis occupied Holland in 1942, she refused to flee to Switzerland and leave her biological sister behind. "Why should I be spared?" Edith exclaims, "Is it not right that I should gain no advantage from my Baptism? If I cannot share the lot of my brothers and sisters, my life is, in a sense, destroyed."

This presentation presents Stein's death as a form of Socratic martyrdom, unfolding within the backdrop of a totalitarian society marching toward its demise and death. It highlights her opposition to Martin Heidegger's view that one's death is a uniqueness that others cannot experience. In Stein's view, preparing for death means creating a *Gemeinschaftserlebnis*—a living together through a conscious experience as a communal experience of solidarity. She believes that one's unique dying and death can be shared and experienced by others, creating a community that anticipates death in the self-giving love of Christ.



**BE THE  
DIFFERENCE.**



**Rev. Peter Nguyen, S.J.**

2024 holder of the Rev. Francis Wade Chair  
Marquette University



**Learn more about  
Rev. Nguyen**

For questions or special needs, contact  
Julie Bach at 414.288.7511.